

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 062478

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR NEWSOM FROM OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE DISCUSSIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS REACHED AT THE MEETING YOU ATTENDED FEBRUARY 28 HAS BEEN INITIALED BY THE PRESIDENT:

QUOTE

AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE FOLLOWING:

-- AN AMENDMENT OF THE CURRENT MILITARY BASE AGREEMENT WOULD SERVE US INTERESTS BY PLACING OUR ACCESS TO IMPORTANT FACILITIES ON A MORE STABLE AND DURABLE BASIS. THIS JUSTI-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 062478

FIES A MAJOR EFFORT IN THE COMING WEEKS TO RESOLVE OUT-STANDING BASE ISSUES AND SECURE AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS ON LEVELS OF COMPENSATION WE WILL ATTEMPT TO SECURE FROM THE CONGRESS IN ORDER TO WIND UP NEGOTIATIONS, IF POSSIBLE, BY APRIL 14-15 WHEN VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WILL VISIT MANILA.

-- WE SHOULD INCLUDE SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE AS A GRANT ELEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINE COMPENSATION PACKAGE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

-- WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO INCLUDE MODEST LEVELS OF MAP IN THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE, BUT SHOULD PHASE OUT MAP AS RAPIDLY AS PRACTICABLE, E.G., IN FY 1981.

-- WE SHOULD AVOID LINKING OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PACKAGE DIRECTLY WITH THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR PHILIPPINE AID PROGRAM SHOULD FUND ADDITIONAL WAYS OF AMELIORATING DEPLORABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN AREAS DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE MAJOR BASES, I.E., OLONGAPO AND ANGELES CITY.

-- AMBASSADOR NEWSOM SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT AN INITIAL OFFER TO PRESIDENT MARCOS--FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS ON THE HILL--TO INCLUDE IN THE PERIOD FY 80-85 UP TO DOLS 150 MILLION IN SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE; DOLS 30-50 MILLION IN MAP; AND DOLS 200-250 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS. THIS SHOULD BE PRESENTED NOT AS A BINDING COMMITMENT BUT AS LEVELS OF COMPENSATION THE ADMINISTRATION WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN FROM THE CONGRESS. WITHIN THESE BROAD GUIDELINES, THE NEGOTIATOR WILL RETAIN LATITUDE TO ADJUST THE PACKAGE TO ENHANCE ITS NEGOTIABILITY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 062478

-- STATE AND DEFENSE WILL BRIEF KEY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IMMEDIATELY ON THE OUTLINES OF THE AMENDED AGREEMENT WE ENVISAGE, INDICATING ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS THE RANGE OF COMPENSATION WE PLAN TO PROPOSE TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE

2. WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO RPT NO MAJOR OBSTACLES TO THIS APPROACH DURING OUR EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS ON THE HILL. SEVERAL POINTS HAVE BEEN RAISED REPEATEDLY WITH REGARD TO OUR ACTUALLY OBTAINING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PACKAGE BEGINNING IN FY 1980:

(A) WE WILL NEED TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BASES AND PRESENT THE PACKAGE AS A REAFFIRMATION OF US MILITARY STRENGTH;

(B) IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WITH REGARD TO THE INTRODUCTION OF SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE THE FIRST YEAR TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS WHICH CONGRESS CAN SUPPORT. ONE SENATOR SUGGESTED THE EMBASSY REVIEW THE PHILIPPINE BUDGET FOR IDEAS. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS TO SHOW THAT THE FUNDS

WILL BE CAREFULLY ACCOUNTED FOR AND THAT THE PROJECTS
MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE.

(C) EVEN STRONG MILITARY SUPPORTERS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY
ADVOCATING INCREASED ASSISTANCE IF THERE CONTINUES TO BE
STRONG PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE US-MARCOS RELATIONSHIP
ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SUGGESTED
THAT IT WOULD HELP CONSIDERABLY IF MARCOS COULD DEMON-
STRATE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS OVER THE
NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

3. WE ARE CLEARING AUTHORIZATION FOR YOU TO PRESENT THE
PACKAGE TO MARCOS ASAP. WE HOPE TO DISPATCH IT MARCH
13. WE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR AN AGREED LIST TOTAL-
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PAGE 04 STATE 062478

ING ABOUT DOLS 700 MILLION OF PRIORITY MILITARY ITEMS
WHICH THE GOP COULD ACQUIRE AS IT SEES FIT FOR PRESEN-
TATION TO MARCOS AT THE SAME TIME OR SOON AFTER SO THAT
WE WILL HAVE A COMPLETE PACKAGE ON THE TABLE A FULL MONTH
BEFORE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

4. YOU SHOULD ADVISE US OF ANY THOUGHTS YOU BELIEVE
SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL IN-
CLUE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS. VANCE

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